

**Congressional District 11 Democratic Party
2023 Annual Convention
May 20, 2024 – 11:00am
AB Tech – Ferguson Auditorium**

Welcome by Jennifer Floyd, Interim NC11 District Chair

Jennifer talked about the about heavy year we've all had with election disappointments and said there's a better year coming. She noted all the wonderful people in this room who will make a difference.

The convention watched two videos, one from Roy Cooper, our Governor, and the other from Anderson Clayton, our State Party Chair. Both commented on losing abortion rights and now having more guns in our communities. We're fighting for a better tomorrow. They asked us to dig deep and commit to putting more time into electing Democrats.

NCDP statement of inclusion **Jennifer Floyd**

Pledge of Allegiance **Jennifer Floyd**

Establishment of a Quorum **Lorna Barnett**

After a count of the counties and number of people present, a quorum is established.

Approval of Convention Agenda – The agenda was approved as presented. **Jennifer Floyd**

Approval of Convention Rules –

Garrett Lagan – Swain County, made a motion to require delegates from 2 counties to pull a resolution. The motion was seconded Larry Dodson – Buncombe County.

The motion was approved. The Rules are adopted as amended.

Approval of 2022 Convention Minutes

The wrong minutes presented – Approval is shelved until next meeting.

Finance Reports **Julie Montanea**

We are doing well compared to this time last year. Receipts over the past year were near \$27,000. Expenditures Get from Julie. In addition to routine administrative expenses in April, we paid insurance for the District Convention and made a \$400 sponsorship contribution to the NC Young Dems annual convention, held April 29th in Morganton. Our reconciled balance at the start of April was \$10,995.79; ending balance was \$10,319.50. As a point of comparison, our reconciled balance was \$6,062.41 at the end of April 2021.

Julie and Leila Tvedt will be doing a training for treasurers in July. Watch for the date.

District Officer Reports

Jenny Floyd, Interim Chair and 1st vice chair, thanked the board members for their work over the last 2 years. She talked about having enjoyed working with this group and looks forward to continuing for the next term.

Denise Marecki, 2nd vice chair, announced that she will not run for office again today and how she has enjoyed working with this board. She talked about the YouTube trainings and about some of the difficulties we had with training during COVID. Denise will work with the new 2nd vice to help have a smooth transition. She asked counties to let us know what trainings they would like to have. We can do trainings on many topics.

Karen Smith, 3rd vice Chair, thanked all the county officers she has worked with over the last couple of years. She has updated the webpage and encouraged everyone to keep on sending county news for the newsletters. She also thanked other board members.

Lorna Barnett, Secretary talked about the wonderful teamwork that has been part of the board membership for the last two years and is looking forward to the next term.

Julie Montenea, Treasurer said what she wanted to say with the Treasurer's report.

Lunch Break – 45 minutes A light meal of sandwiches was provided by the District.

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker was Allison Scott, an advocate for LGBTQ community and trans women, and a candidate for Asheville City Council in 2022. She spoke about the need for inclusion and acceptance of people who are not just like us and for the respect all people deserve.

Candidates - Videos were presented from Josh Stein who is running for NC Governor and Wesley Harris who is running for State treasurer. Both candidates talked about the importance of the 2024 election and how much it will mean for North Carolina. They said that 2024 will be an uphill battle and that we can do it.

ELECTIONS

Doug Jones was introduced to the convention as the **Parliamentarian for the Convention**.

Congressional District 11 Chair

Lorna Barnett nominated Katie Dean for Chair. She was elected by acclamation.

Katie Dean took over from Jennifer Floyd as Chair.

1st Vice Chair

Katie opened the floor for nominations for a candidate of a different gender from herself for chair from the floor. Katie identified her gender as female and pronouns as she/her. There were no nominations for a nominee of a different gender than the Chair for First Vice Chair. Katie opened the floor for all nominations.

Denice Marecki nominated Jennifer Floyd for 1st vice chair.

Jennifer accepted the nomination for 1st Vice Chair.

An objection was made by **Chuck Dickson**, Haywood County, because the nominee's residence is same county as the Chair.

Sybil Mann rose for a Point of Order. She said a vacant position (1st Vice Chair) could be filled at the next District meeting, either a male, someone from a different county or Jenny. There were several comments from members of the convention that Sybil responded to. They were too rapid to capture for the minutes.

Soren Pederson asked if we could override the rules to nominate Jenny Floyd today. Response from Sybil is no, we can't override the rules because it would be overriding the POO.

Lorna asked if we could appoint an interim 1st Vice Chair. Sybil said no.

There was considerable discussion between attendees and **Sybil Mann**, weighing-in as former chair of NCDP's Council of Review, which was too fast to capture for the minutes.

Chris Reynolds, Polk County, moved to appoint an interim 1st vice chair. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Montsinger, Jackson County. Motion was accepted with one abstention from Beth Ebert Ostgaard. Jenny is the interim 1st Vice until there is an election on June 14th.

2nd Vice Chair

Katie Dean, Chair, asked for nominations for 2nd vice chair.

Michelle Antellac, Henderson County, nominated Shon Urbas for second vice chair. Shon accepted the nomination.

Terry Van Duyn, Buncombe County nominated Kristen Robinson for 2nd vice chair.

Kristen Robinson - Kristen rose to accept the nomination and to speak about her qualifications and talents for this position and asked for everyone's votes.

Shon Urbas accepted the nomination and spoke to the convention about his abilities and what he can bring to the work of the board.

Chuck Dickson, Haywood County rose to make a motion to disqualify Kristen Robinson because of her county of residency. The motion was seconded by Michelle Antellac from Henderson County. The ruling from the chair is that we must follow the Plan of Organization (POO).

Doug Jones, parliamentarian for the meeting, announced that it would not be appropriate to override the state party plan of organization.

Brenden Hipps, Buncombe, rose to object because Kristen would be the only officer from the Young Dems, another regulation from the POO.

Don Buchanan, asked for a discussion of the rules regarding the gender and age requirements of the POO. The rules were displayed on the screen and read aloud for clarification.

Katie discussed the rules in section 3.74 of the POO. There is not a rule to determine which rule is more important, the rule regarding residency or the rule to include a Young Democrat on the board.

Chuck Dickson, Haywood County, rose for a point of order and recommended delaying 2nd vice chair election until June 14. It was agreed to delay the vote until later in the meeting after the other elections are completed.

Dalton Buchanan made a motion that we wait until the June 14 meeting to hold the 1st vice chair position. The motion was seconded by Chris Reynolds. The motion was approved.

3r Vice Chair

Gary St. Arnaud, Macon County nominated Karen Smith for 3rd Vice Chair. Karen Smith accepted the nomination. Karen was elected by acclamation.

Secretary

Penny Smith, Jackson County, nominated Lorna Barnett for secretary. Lorna accepted the nomination. Lorna was elected by acclamation.

Treasurer

Katie Dean, Chair, appointed **Julie Montanea** as Treasurer. Julie accepted the appointment.

Back to 2nd Vice Chair. Parliamentarian **Doug Jones** presented three possible options for the 2nd Vice Chair position. They are,

- Disqualify Kristen
- Vote on the two nominated candidates
- Have two vice chairs

Sybil Mann rose for a point of order to say that we can't have 4 vice-chairs all with a vote. There is precedence to have two 2nd Vice chairs if one of them is a non-voting officer.

Rachel Holler, Henderson County, rose for a point of order to say that the rules are very arbitrary and don't serve to strengthen the district. Suggested that the rules are way over the top.

Denise Marecki, Buncombe County, moved to take the election of 2nd vice chair to a vote now between Kristen and Shon. The motion was seconded by **Brenden Hipps**, Buncombe County.

Discussion of the motion. **Lindsey Furst** rose to urge us to vote this motion down to allow candidates to decide if they want option 3. **Dalton Buchanan** suggests an interim instead of voting someone in.

Chuck Dickson recommended not to vote. **Kathy Kline** is concerned that we won't find another 1st vice chair and that we should ask both to serve.

The original motion by Denise Marecki to hold the vote now carried, and the election was held. Each county proceeded to tally their county delegates' votes to submit to the tellers.

Votes were tallied by two tellers, **Julie Montanea and Denise Marecki**.

Kristen Robinson received the most weighted votes and is elected 2nd Vice Chair.

Lorna Barnett, Jackson County, made a motion to vote for Shon Urbas to be an alternate to the 2nd VC position as a non-voting member of the board. Motion was seconded by **Soren Pederson**, Buncombe County, and the motion passed. Shon was elected by acclamation.

Shon Urbas agreed to serve in this capacity and is the alternate 2nd Vice Chair.

RESOLUTIONS

Doug Jones, Parliamentarian explained the consent agenda for resolutions saying that unless a resolution was pulled from the list by two delegates from different counties, they would all be accepted.

Resolution to be pulled are the following:

Res 31, 39, 43, and 50. All other resolutions are accepted by acclamation.

Those four resolutions were then debated:

Resolution 31 – Pro and Con – **Soren Pederson** against, **Lorna Barnett** for, **Tom Downing** for. The question has been called. **Resolution adopted.**

Resolution 39 – pro and con – **Elaine Slocum**, opposed; **Soren Pederson**, pro; **Nina Tovich**, pro; **Gred Gross**, pro. The question was called, and the **resolution is accepted.**

Resolution 43 – pro and cons, **Sheryl Swofford**, pro, **Soren Pederson**, against. The question was called. The **resolution is not agreed to.**

Resolution 50 — **Anthony Sutton**, against; **Graeme Frelick**, against; **Soren Pederson**, pro; **Betsy Baste**, opposed to calling the question and opposed to this resolution. **Sybil Mann** commented that NC11 resolutions will all go to the State resolution committee and will be reworked there. This isn't the final look at the resolution. She stated what's in the platform. **Garrett Lagan**, pro. The **resolution is not agreed to.**

Soren Pederson rose to make a request to suspend the rules to add another resolution. **Sybil Mann** rose to say this is out of order and it would go against the POO. It would not just change the rules of the day. The suspension was not approved.

Announcements

Katie Dean, Chair announced that the North Carolina Democratic Party summer SEC meeting will be held on June 24.

Jesse Ross, Haywood County, announced that the Young Dems would be hosting a party and invited the members of the Convention to join the young Dems in the festivities.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 3:15

Submitted by Lorna Barnett, Secretary.